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SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Are the Government in correspondence with the Central Government on the question of contribution from the Central funds? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Not as yet, Sir; because the number of refugees is not very large at the present time."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that in the various districts, public subscriptions were called for and collected and blankets have been purchased and are being despatched? May I know whether similar arrangements could be made in other districts? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Blankets are purchased for use by refugees in the northern provinces because of the cold weather. I do not think the necessity for use of blankets in this part of the country will arise."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Are not the mornings cold nowadays, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I do not think so, Sir; personally I do not use a blanket myself."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is there any proposal to settle these refugees on land here, or assign any land to them? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" No, Sir; as found in the answer at the end, they are only temporarily here, because there are language difficulties, etc., and the question of settlement in this Province has not arisen."

Number of declarations for starting newspapers, etc., in the city.

* 128 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many declarations for starting newspapers and periodicals were filed in Madras City since March 1947;

(*b*) how many of them were (i) dailies, (ii) weeklies, (iii) monthlies, and (iv) other periodicals; and

(*c*) whether securities were required to be deposited in the case of any of them, and for what reasons?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) The total number of declarations filed for starting newspapers and periodicals in Madras City since March 1947 is 242.

" (*b*) Details of the total number of newspapers and periodicals are as follows :—

Dailies	7
Weeklies	67
Monthlies	136
Bi-weekly	1
Fortnightly	29
Quarterly	1
Half-yearly	1
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"(c) Under section 7 (1) of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Madras, demanded the deposit of security from the following periodicals :—

(1)	Ethiroli	..	..	..	Weekly.
(2)	Ethayaoli	..	..	..	Do.
(3)	Jananayagam	..	..	..	Monthly.
(4)	Samadharma	..	..	..	Weekly.
(5)	Sengodi	..	..	..	Monthly.
(6)	Suprabhatham	..	..	..	Weekly.
(7)	Onward	..	..	..	Do.

The reasons are as follows :—

(1) *Ethiroli.*—It was considered likely that the contents would incite and encourage the public to commit cognizable offences.

(2) *Ethayaoli.*—The journal was considered likely to publish defamatory articles and indecent references to persons engaged in the cinema industry thus inciting or encouraging the commission of cognizable offences involving violence.

(3) *Jananayagam.*—The printer and publisher being a member of the Communist Party, the policy of the paper was considered to be likely to incite and encourage the public to commit cognizable offences involving violence or directly or indirectly to express approval or admiration of such acts.

(4) *Samadharma.*—The publisher had been convicted in the Madras Conspiracy Case of 1934 under section 120-B (1), Indian Penal Code. His other antecedents were also not satisfactory.

(5) *Sengodi.*—The reason given in item (3) *Jananayagam* applies to this paper also.

(6) & (7) *Suprabhatham and Onward.*—The antecedents of the publisher who was considered to be a dangerous revolutionary were not satisfactory."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"Were not the securities demanded even before the very first issue of these publications came out?"

THE HON. DR. SUBBARAYAN :—"That is so, as I have explained, because of the antecedents of the people who were going to publish these papers, precautions were taken."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"May I know whether the Hon. Ministers do not have antecedents; will any security be demanded from them?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"No answer for that, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know whether the Government do not consider it necessary that these newspapers which obtained the licence, should appear, before they demand the security? After all, even if once they had committed a mistake, they might reform themselves as publishers."

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The hon. Member knows as well as I do the old proverb that prevention is better than cure."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether security will be demanded from all Communist papers and periodicals in this Province? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am not prepared to answer this as a general question."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Do the Government realize that they are restraining the freedom of the press? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" By all well-known democratic principles, freedom of the press has got to be restrained also if in the opinion of the Government such freedom may become not freedom but licence."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know whether from all papers with declared socialist tendencies, securities will be demanded? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I have already said that I am not prepared to answer any such general question."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that the Communist Party of India has promised wholehearted support to the Central Government, will the Government consider the desirability of changing their attitude towards the Communist press? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There is no question of any attitude towards any party; their position will be carefully watched; and if in the Government's opinion, they are quite safe, the securities demanded may then be cancelled."

Facilities for Madrasis evacuating from Pakistan.

* 129 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government took any, and, if so, what steps to ensure that adequate facilities were given to Madrasis evacuating from Pakistan;

(*b*) how many Madrasi evacuees from Pakistan were rendered assistance by the Government, on their arrival in this Province;

(*c*) what the nature of the assistance given was;

(*d*) whether the Government propose to give compensation to the Madras evacuees who suffered damage in Pakistan; and

(*e*) whether the Government have made any, and, if so, what representation to the Government of India on the subject of such compensation?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) Certain representations were received from the South Indian Association at Karachi soliciting the assistance of this Government in regard to the provision of transport facilities for South Indians stranded in Karachi.